

Cliff Larsen

To: Kathleen Stachowski
Subject: RE: SB 306

Kathleen, I will enter your note into the testimony. And I agree with you and support clean healthful development – and this isn't it. Best, and stay in touch on other concerns.
Cliff

From: Kathleen Stachowski [mailto:wildbison@bresnan.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2011 7:16 PM
To: Cliff@larsenusa.com
Cc: grt3177@smtel.com; daveew@gmail.com
Subject: SB 306

Dear Senate Natural Resources Committee members:

I'm opposed to SB 306, and if it circumvents the citizens initiative to prohibit cyanide heap leach gold mining, I'm also offended by it. I'm pasting below a bit of commentary on the topic--please note the line about "perpetual pollution of the area's groundwater..." So much for "clean and healthful."

Please share my comment with the committee and enter it into the hearing testimony, if possible.
Thanks very much,
Kathleen Stachowski Lolo

...with compassion and justice for all
www.OtherNationsJustice.org

Unfortunately, the Legislature's transgression against citizens does not stop with medical cannabis. This week will see an attempt by Republican Sen. Terry Murphy, of Cardwell, to circumvent the citizen-passed initiative (I-137) to prohibit cyanide heap leach open-pit gold mining with his Senate Bill 306. The measure will allow any other gold or silver open pit mine to process their "ore, concentrate, tailing, waste rock, or other metalliferous product" at the Golden Sunlight Mill in Murphy's district. Of course, the bill doesn't mention that Golden Sunlight is a poster child for why the cyanide ban was passed in the first place—it is already responsible for the perpetual pollution of the area's groundwater that flows downgradient to the confluence of the Boulder and Jefferson Rivers. Perpetual pollution is tough to imagine and it's exactly what Montanans voted against.

Full article here <http://missoulanews.bigskypress.com/missoula/wise-guys/Content?oid=1390854>

**MISSOULA
COUNTY**



**MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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February 18, 2011

Debby Barrett, Chair
Senate Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Helena MT 59620

Dear Chairman Barrett and members of the Committee:

The Missoula City-County Health Department opposes SB 306 because it would promote open pit mines that would damage land and water resources in our County. This bill would lead to a proliferation of open pit mining in the Blackfoot River, Clark Fork, Rock Creek and Ninemile Creek watersheds. Open pit mines up to five acres in size are not required to post reclamation bonds, but cause water pollution from acid mine drainage including contamination with heavy metals and arsenic. This pollution will affect surface and groundwater in our County, impacting human health and aquatic life.

Many areas of Missoula County contain low grade ore deposits that would be mined if this bill passes, and the ore would be shipped to cyanide leach mines such as Golden Sunlight, Kendall or Montana Tunnels.

This bill is in direct conflict with two voter passed initiatives banning open pit cyanide leach mining in Montana. These initiatives were strongly supported by the voters of Missoula County.

Sincerely,

Peter Nielsen
Environmental Health Supervisor